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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/770,318	01/26/2001	Christopher C. Brown	13316.1US01	7526
23552	7590	06/17/2004	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903				MOONEYHAM, JANICE A
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3629				

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/770,318	BROWN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Jan Mooneyham	3629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 January 2001.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is in response to the applicant's communication filed on January 26, 2001.

Claims 1-27 are currently pending in this application.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1-27  
2. Claims ~~1-15~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Torres et al (US 2002/0004757)(hereinafter referred to as Torres)

Regarding Claims 1-15:

Torres discloses a computer network apparatus and software for integrating communication between parties involved in the funeral process comprising (page 1 [0009,0010], page 2 [0035] thru page 4 [0042]): a memory/databases (Figs. 2, -5, page 1 [0009,0010]), a network server with a processor (page 2[0027]), links to the information (Figs. 4 - 7, page 5 [0057]), product supplier information and list of products and services and associated retail prices (page 3 [0035, 0037] (Fig. 7), funeral home information (Figs. 9-10); and predetermined set of funeral planner steps (Fig. 7-10).

Regarding Claims 16-18:

Torres discloses method for integrating communication between parties involved with the funeral process with a computer-implemented apparatus having a memory

having first, second, and third storage locations, and a network server in data communication with the memory and having a network interface and a processor, the method comprising;

receiving, at the processor, electrical signals embodying funeral product information through the interface from a supplier client device and storing, by the processor, the funeral product information in the first storage location (Fig. 4-10, page 3 Online Funeral Plan)

providing, by the processor, electrical signals embodying funeral product information stored in the first storage location to a funeral home client device through the interface (Figs 4-10, page 3-Online Funeral Plan),

receiving at the processor, electrical signals embodying funeral home information including selections from information stored in the first storage location, and storing, by the processor, the funeral home information in the second storage location (Figs. 1-10),

providing, by the processor, electrical signals embodying funeral home information stored in the second storage location to consumer a client device through the interface (Figs. 1-10); wherein the interface is in electrical communication with the Internet 9page 2[0024].

Regarding Claims 19-27:

Torres discloses a method for integrating communication between parties involved with the funeral process with a computer-implemented apparatus having a memory for storing funeral process information and a network server in electrical

communication with the memory and a network interface, the network server including a processor, the method comprising:

providing, by the processor, an electrical signal embodying a menu of funeral process items to a client device through the interface, each menu item

corresponding to a set of data stored in memory (Figs. 1-10);

determining, by the processor, the appropriate set of data to retrieve

in response to selection of one of the menu items (Figs. 1-10); and

providing an electrical signal embodying the appropriate set of data to

the client device through the interface (Figs. 1-10); wherein the selection corresponds to

product supplier information (Fig. 1-10); wherein the product supplier information

includes a list of products offered by product suppliers and associated prices (page 2

[0035, -0038]); displaying, in a sequence a funeral plan option from a set of funeral plan options on a display of a client device for executing the computer process(Fig. 7, page 6

(step-by-step approach)); receiving a funeral plan option selection through an input

device of the client device (Fig. 7, page 6 (step-by-step-approach); proceeding to a next

funeral plan option to receive another funeral plan option selection, and

transmitting from the client device a computer data signal embodying the funeral product option selections made during each of the funeral planner steps (Fig. 7, page 6 (step-by-

step approach)

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Matsuzaki, Tsuneo discloses a funeral system using the internet .

Segal discloses a method to assist consumers to make funeral arrangements online.

Parker discloses an integrated life planning method and system which includes funeral and death care service.

Barrott et al discloses a family advising system and method for making funeral arrangements over the web.

Richardson discloses a funeral home website

Angelsonline is a website with a guest book for the deceased.

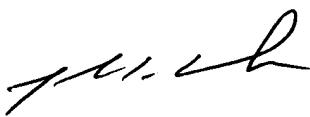
Plan4ever is a web page with links for pre-planning funeral services.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jan Mooneyham whose telephone number is (703) 305-8554. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (703) 308-2702. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JM



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